

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends Claims 1-10 and 12--29. Claims 1-29 are pending in the application.

Election Requirement

In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner issued an “election” requirement, requiring the Applicants to elect one of the following species:

Species I – Claims 1, 2, 13 and 27-29;
Species II – Claims 3, 6, 18 and 21;
Species III - Claims 4, 11, and 19;
Species IV – Claims 5 and 20;
Species V – Claim 7;
Species VI – Claims 8, 12, and 14-16;
Species VII – Claim 9; and
Species VIII – Claim 10.

The election requirement is traversed because it is improper. The election requirement should be withdrawn because the Examiner incorrectly identifies claims as species. “Claims themselves are never species.” MPEP 806.04(e).

In the Office Action, the Examiner also stated the following: Species I is directed to Figure 5; Species II is directed to Figure 7; Species III is directed to Figure 9; Species IV is directed to Figure 11; Species V is directed to Figure 14; Species VI is directed to Figure 15; Species VII is directed to Figure 17; and Species VIII is directed to Figure 18.

Since a response to the election requires a provisional election, to the extent that the requirement is understood, the species corresponding to Figure 5 is provisionally elected. Claims 1-6, 11, 13, 17 and 27-19 read on the elected species.

Objection to Claims 17, 22, 24 and 25 Under 37 CFR 1.75(c)

The Examiner objected to the form of Claims 17, 22, 24 and 25 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) and alleged that a multiple dependent claim cannot depend on another multiple dependent claim. Claims 17, 22, and 25 have been amended to depend only from Claim 1.

Objection to Claim 26

The Examiner objected to Claim 26 as being dependent on itself. The dependency of Claim 26 has been corrected so that Claim 26 now depends from Claim 25. .

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. No fees are believed due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 11-0855. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404.685.6799.

Respectfully submitted,

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